



City of Santa Barbara
Police Department

Memorandum

DATE: January 17, 2022
TO: Santa Barbara City Council
FROM: Chief Bernard Melekian
SUBJECT: Santa Barbara Police – Chick-Fil-A Traffic Recommendation

Traffic-related issues pertaining to the Chick-fil-A restaurant drive-through, located at 3707 State Street, Santa Barbara have been a concern for the police department for several years. Since 2013 when the business first opened, the department has conducted several enforcement campaigns in an effort to mitigate the specific problems during peak business hours.

Specifically, vehicles are impeding the flow of traffic while waiting to enter the restaurant's drive-through lane. This traffic impediment is a violation of California Vehicle Code 22400(a). These vehicles are also creating a back-up of traffic in the #2 eastbound lane and create a hazardous traffic situation, especially for bicyclists traversing east in the 3700 block of State Street in the marked bike lane.

This traffic congestion also creates a hazard for other motorists attempting to drive in the area as well as pedestrians who are forced to walk around the vehicles when they block the sidewalk.

Attempts at educating the public about these safety concerns has also had no effect on solving this problem. There are several large, clearly posted signs explaining the legal ramifications for blocking traffic or stopping on the sidewalk, and drivers still fail to obey the educational signage.

As mentioned, Santa Barbara Police Officers have conducted enforcement activities specifically dealing with these violations. Though Officers have issued warnings and citations to drivers for the above-mentioned vehicle code infractions, the enforcement has had little to no effect on solving the issue. Additionally, ticketing the customers frequenting the drive-through makes them feel targeted for a problem they did not create. It is the position of the department that this problem cannot be solved solely by enforcement unless such enforcement were to be constant.